



Educator Finds Reading Program A Perfect Fit

As a faculty member at a community college, LuAnn Wood was not the typical educator pursuing a master's degree in reading. Yet she found that flexibility provided by the program curriculum and instructors made this a perfect fit for her professional and personal goals.

Wood is employed at Century Community College in White Bear Lake, Minn. as teacher in the Reading and Study Skills Department. There she works with high school graduates and adult learners to strengthen and enhance their reading skills to prepare them for college level reading.

"I didn't always have the same perspective as the other students in the program because of my job," Wood said. "Dr. Phinney and the other faculty made it easy for me to adjust assignments to match my occupational needs, and I really appreciated that."

Always an avid reader, Wood first became interested in reading as a profession when she became a parent. As a secondary school teacher in a private institution, she already knew the value of reading skills in an educational setting.

What she learned about early childhood development as a new parent caused her passion for reading to really blossom.

For ten years, Wood was an active volunteer for the independent reading programs at her children's school. Four years ago she began teaching reading and study skills at Century College.

After hearing about the UW-RF program from a colleague and speaking with the program coordinator, Dr. Margaret Phinney, she decided to enroll. She completed her Master of Science in Education degree in Reading this past summer.

"Participating in this program has helped solidify my own personal philosophy about reading," she said. "As further testament to how adaptable this program is, I've found that I can implement many of the reading strategies and action research at my work, even though I work with adult learners not elementary students."

"You can't go wrong with this degree," she added. "Reading is the foundation of what we do as educators."

Recent improvements to the program make this degree even more attractive. The total number of credits to complete the degree has been reduced. Students beginning the summer of 2006 can complete their master's degree, and obtain a Wisconsin Reading Specialist license, in just 30 credits, seven fewer than under the old degree plan. A reading certificate may be completed in just 21-23 credits, with most of these courses offered during a Summer Reading Institute.

For more information on the UW-RF graduate programs in reading, visit the web site at www.uwrf.edu/ogs or send an email to outreach@uwrf.edu.

NOTE TO MINNESOTA EDUCATORS

Minnesota and Wisconsin do not have any reciprocal licensing agreements; however, we can provide Minnesota candidates with documentation on how our program specifically meets the requirements of MN Rule 8710.4725 TEACHERS OF READING. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Education has approved this program as meeting Minnesota's requirements for Minnesota Teachers of Reading. Completion of the MSE - Reading Program more than meets Minnesota's requirements. Educators just interested in completing the minimum number of courses to meet the Minnesota requirements may do so.



LuAnn Wood